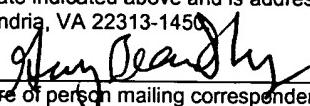


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roy A. Gravel *et al.* Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: Not yet assigned Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: June 27, 2003 Customer No. 21559
Title: HUMAN METHIONINE SYNTHASE: CLONING, AND
METHODS FOR EVALUATING RISK OF NEURAL TUBE
DEFECTS, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, AND CANCER

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, kindly consider
the following amendments and remarks.

In the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of the specification with the following
paragraph that has been re-written in clean form.

This application is a continuation of pending US Application
Number 08/980,326, filed November 26, 1997, which claims the benefit of